

ICOM AT G20

The International Council of Museums advocates
for the role of museums in preserving cultural
heritage and shaping sustainable futures

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ICOM at G20: ICOM advocates for the role of museums in preserving cultural heritage and shaping sustainable futures

"ICOM's advocacy work within the G20 Culture Working Group builds on its participation in the 2021 G20 Summit in Italy and the Rome Declaration, which highlighted the transformative power of culture and museums to address climate change and the digital transformation of the cultural sector." - **Emma Nardi, ICOM's President**

In this year's G20 summit, ICOM aims to **highlight** the following three key messages:

Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future

"As part of its standard-setting role, ICOM adopted a new museum definition at its recent General Conference in August 2022 in Prague. The new museum definition recognizes the role of museums in sustainable development in an unprecedented way: accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability." - **Emma Nardi, ICOM's President**

"ICOM advocates for the role and responsibility of museums in shaping sustainable futures for all. Recalling its Resolution No.1 "On sustainability and the implementation of Agenda 2030, Transforming our World" (Kyoto, 2019), ICOM believes in the power of museums to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals." - **Medea Ekner, ICOM's Director General**

In this context, ICOM joins the Climate Heritage Network in calling on the G20 governments to endorse a Joint Work decision on Culture and Climate Change at the upcoming COP28, asking the UNFCCC to address the transformative power of culture and heritage to drive solutions to climate change, following the G20's successful model.

Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property

"Museums play an essential role in protecting and promoting cultural heritage, and ICOM advocates for the reinforcement of museum capacities and museum professionals' skills to both prevent illicit trafficking of cultural objects and to foster responsible collecting practices." - **Sophie Delepierre, Head of Heritage Protection at ICOM**

ICOM also continues to **promote international cooperation** in the fields of restitution and counter illicit trafficking by working with international partners such as UNESCO, UNIDROIT, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation, and **encouraging the ratification of international cultural conventions**.

Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture

"ICOM recognises the importance of digital technologies to the mission of museums and the roles that they play in the promotion and protection of cultural heritage within both their local and the global communities." - **Medea Ekner, ICOM's Director General**

ICOM collaborates in digital projects that help to promote open access to culture and democratization of knowledge, as well as the development of digital tools that help to protect cultural heritage against the risks of illicit trafficking.

About The International Council of Museums (ICOM)

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is an international non-governmental organization made up of over **51.302 museum professionals in 131 countries and territories**. Since 2021, ICOM has been actively engaging with the G20 Culture Working Group in the framework of its role in advocating for museums on the global stage. Founded in 1999 and comprising 19 countries and the European Union, the G20 is an intergovernmental forum dedicated to international economic cooperation. Participation in the G20 Culture Working Group corresponds to the ICOM Strategic Plan 2022-2028 priority on Global Positioning.

About G20 Culture

“The G20 Culture Ministers met for the first time in 2020 and highlighted culture’s crosscutting contribution to advancing G20 agenda. Recognizing the synergies between culture and other policy areas, and considering the impact of culture, cultural heritage and the creative economy on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development, culture was integrated into the G20 agenda as a Culture Working Group (CWG) in 2021” (see UNESCO page). The group aims to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration to support cultural and creative industries.

About G20 India (2023)

Under India's G20 Presidency, the priority areas of focus for the Culture Working Group (CWG) are the following: (1) Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property; (2) Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future; (3) Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy; (4) Leveraging Digital Technologies for the **Protection and Promotion of Culture**.

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EMMA NARDI

President of ICOM

Emma Nardi is the President of the International Council of Museums since August 2022. She is an accomplished educator who began her academic journey at the French School of Rome, where she mastered her French skills as her second language. She holds degrees in Humanities, specializing in Art and French Literature from the University of Rome La Sapienza, and later pursued Sociology with a focus on survey methods. Her notable role as a former full professor of Museum Education at Roma Tre University involved founding Italy's first University Museum Education Centre and she also taught at esteemed institutions like École du Louvre and Institut National du Patrimoine in Paris.

President Emma Nardi led impactful collaborations between academic institutions and museums, fostering innovative projects to enhance learning experiences. During her career, her inventive methods included using museum labels to improve reading comprehension and implementing distance learning alongside traditional methods. Her research reports echo her commitment to advancing museum education and enriching the learning process.



MEDEA EKNER

Director General of ICOM

Medea Ekner is Director General of the International Council of Museums (interim) since June 2023. Medea is a museologist and future oriented museum strategist, with a passion for the preservation and promotion of global cultural heritage and international cooperation among museums.

As chair of ICOM Sweden, she initiated the accreditation process of one of the latest national BS committees: Blue Shield Sweden. She has previously served as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Council of the ICOM.



SOPHIE DELEPIERRE

Head of Heritage Protection

Sophie Delepierre is the Head of Heritage Protection Department at the International Council of Museums (ICOM), which she joined in 2017. In this position, she leads operational programs, seminars and awareness raising activities related to the protection of cultural heritage (museum's perspective). She regularly represents ICOM at international conferences on the strategies to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural property. Previously at ICOM, she was the Legal Advisor and Institutional Affairs Coordinator.

Before joining ICOM, she worked on the implementation of the *1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* at UNESCO Headquarters (Culture Sector) from 2008 to 2015. As Assistant Specialist and then Associated Expert, she actively contributed to the revitalization of this Convention and drafted numerous working documents and legal notices on the circulation of cultural goods. She also regularly participated in international conferences on the legal aspects of the cultural heritage protection and as speaker in regional/international workshops on this subject.

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